

1. Are we to literally lift our hands in prayer, according to verse 8? If not, what does it mean?
2. How might you restate verse 9 in contemporary terms for women today?
3. What is the proper clothing for a godly woman? Why?
4. What might be the connection between verse 12 and verses 13-14?
5. Scholar have not reached a consensus regarding the meaning of verse 15. What do you think it might mean?

To put it another way:

1 Tim 2:8-10 (NIV) I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer, without anger or disputing. I also want women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or expensive clothes, but with good deeds, appropriate for women who profess to worship God.

1 Tim 2:8-10 (ESV) I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling; likewise also that women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire, but with what is proper for women who profess godliness--with good works.

1 Tim 2:8-10 (DBY) I will therefore that the men pray in every place, lifting up pious hands, without wrath or reasoning. In like manner also that the women in decent deportment and dress adorn themselves with modesty and discretion, not with plaited [hair] and gold, or pearls, or costly clothing, but, what becomes women making profession of the fear of God, by good works.

6. To modern readers it can seem that Paul is “picking on” women when he instructs them to:
- Clothe themselves in godly behavior instead of costly fashions
 - Demonstrate voluntary submission
 - Maintain silence at certain appropriate times
 - Refrain from teaching men
 - Not seek a position of leadership or authority.

Lest we think that men by contrast have perfect liberty in these matters, read the following Scriptures and list the instructions it gives to *all* believers, or specifically to men:

1 Cor 11:14

James 2:1-4

Col 3:12

1 Peter 5:5

1 Cor 16:15-16

Heb 13:17

Rom 13:1,5

Eph 5:21

1 Cor 14:30

James 3:1

1 Tim 3:1-13

Titus 1:5-9

7. What do these verses say about the relations between men and women?

1 Peter 3:7

Gal 3:28

8. One of the most vivid differences between “human nature” and Christian nature is one’s attitude toward submission. When Paul asks the Corinthians to submit to his apostolic authority in 2 Cor 10:1, he makes an appeal that must touch the heart of any Christian. What is this appeal?